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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Plant Protection
and Quarantine

Witchweed . . . Agricultural Survey

Reserve
ASB 612
1A245
1986



Witchweed . . . Agricultural Survey

Have You Seen Witchweed?

Your State and Federal agriculture agencies are looking for witchweed in North Carolina and South Carolina—and we need your help to find it! This red-flowered plant pest is a serious threat to corn and sorghum in the Carolinas. Right now it could be growing in your fields or among grassy weeds elsewhere on your property.

Beauty is the Beast

Don't let witchweed fool you! Its bright red flowers and 12-inch height look innocent enough . . . but underground this pest is robbing healthy host plants of food and water. When infestations are heavy, witchweed's mark is obvious—crops that are dried out, stunted, and nonproductive. Before cooperative State-Federal control efforts began in the Carolinas, local corn losses were high.

Why the Witchweed Survey Here?

The State-Federal plan is to eliminate witchweed entirely from North Carolina and South Carolina. To do this,

we must find out if the pest is growing in locations outside the region known to be infested (See map). Some outbreaks may not have been reported, nor discovered by surveys. With your help, State and Federal inspectors can find witchweed before it finds our crops. Last year's witchweed mail survey in the Carolinas alerted us to several new infested fields. These were quickly treated before serious damage and spread could result.

When Do You Find Witchweed?

Witchweed's red flowers are most evident in July, August, and September. However, the pest can continue to grow until the first frost.

Where are the Best Places to Look?

Most witchweed grows right next to corn and sorghum plants. However, the pest can also thrive among weedy grasses in soybean, cotton, peanut, and other crop fields, and in harvested areas of early crops. Crabgrass in abandoned fields, along roadsides, near farm buildings, in backyards, and in home gardens should also be checked carefully!

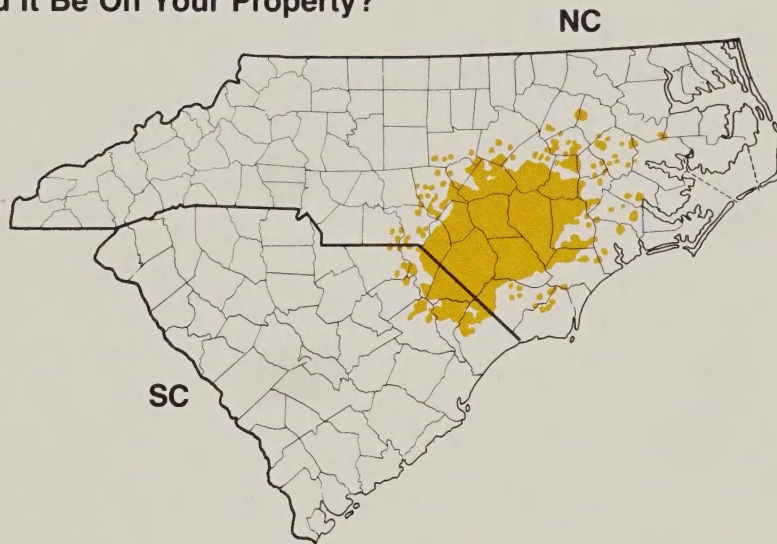


Witchweed attaches itself to roots of corn plants, stealing vital nutrients.

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These Areas Have Witchweed— Could It Be On Your Property?



How Can You Help?

Let us know if you do or if you do not suspect witchweed on your property.

Fill out and return the attached card, or call one of these numbers:

(919) 483-3536—Fayetteville, NC

(919) 735-1941—Goldsboro, NC

(919) 739-9559—Lumberton, NC

(803) 662-1987—Florence, SC

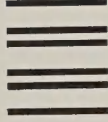
A State or Federal inspector will visit your property to identify what you've found, and treat if necessary.

Important—Please call or return the postcard!

Warning: Don't pull up plants you think are witchweed! You could be spreading its seeds instead. Each witchweed plant can produce up to 500,000 tiny seeds yearly—so the danger of spread is very great!

Slightly Revised January 1986

**United States
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Fill out, Detach, and Mail

name

address/location

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county

Yes ☐ I suspect witchweed on
my property

No ☐ I have inspected my
property without finding
any trace of witchweed

Remember: Witchweed is a problem for everyone! It can increase farmer production costs and consumer food prices if allowed to spread. Let's get rid of witchweed in the Carolinas once and for all! Check your property and send in this postcard!

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health
Inspection Service; North Carolina Department of Agriculture;
Plant Pest Regulatory Service, Clemson University

Approved for use through November 1986.
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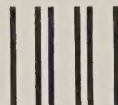
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